

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2004-357-W/S - ORDER NO. 2005-92
FEBRUARY 24, 2005

IN RE:	Application of Carolina Water Service, Inc.)	ORDER GRANTING
	for Adjustment of Rates and Charges and)	NIGHT HEARING
	Modification of Certain Terms and)	
	Conditions for the Provision of Water and)	
	Sewer Service.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request for a night hearing to be scheduled in the present docket. On December 17, 2004, Carolina Water Service, Inc. (“CWS” or the “Applicant”) filed an Application requesting approval of an increase in rates and charges and modification of certain terms and conditions for water and sewer service provided to CWS’s customers in certain areas of South Carolina. Following public notice of CWS’s Application, a request was filed by the Office of Regulatory Staff of South Carolina (“ORS”) on February 11, 2005, asking the Commission to schedule a night hearing with respect to CWS’s Application. ORS specifically requests that the night hearing be held at a location in Dorchester County, South Carolina.

The ORS asserts that CWS provides sewer service to Kings Grant subdivision and water and sewer services to Teal on the Ashley subdivision, both located in Dorchester County, South Carolina. According to the ORS, interest in CWS’s present Application

has been expressed to members of the ORS staff by Dorchester County. Based upon the expressed interest shown, ORS respectfully requests that a night hearing be scheduled in Dorchester County. ORS states that a night hearing will afford members of the public to be heard with respect to CWS's pending Application.

Upon consideration of the request of the ORS, the Commission finds that a night hearing in this docket should be scheduled and held in the Dorchester County area. A night hearing will allow interested customers of CWS to appear and present testimony and evidence relevant to CWS's Application. The night hearing shall be scheduled in addition to the public hearing scheduled in this matter for Wednesday, May 4, 2005, to be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina. The night hearing is being scheduled to provide a local forum for customers of CWS and other interested persons not already parties to the proceeding. Parties of record in this docket who have filed Petitions to Intervene and who seek to cross-examine witnesses of CWS will present their testimony and exhibits at the public hearing scheduled for May 4, 2005. Further, CWS will present their witnesses and testimony and exhibits at the hearing scheduled to be held before the Commission in Columbia, South Carolina.

Upon consideration of the request for night hearing, the Commission makes the following findings:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. A hearing on the Applicant's request for an adjustment in rates and charges and modification of certain terms and conditions for the provision of water and sewer service is scheduled to be held in the Commission's hearing room located at 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina on Wednesday, May 4, 2005, at 10:30 a.m.

2. The Applicant serves customers located in Dorchester County, South Carolina.

3. As evidenced by the ORS regarding the interest of customers in this proceeding, the customers of the Applicant are interested in the proceedings concerning the Applicant's request for an adjustment in rates and charges.

4. A night hearing on the Application to be held in Dorchester County, South Carolina would provide a convenient forum for the customers of the Applicant to provide evidence related to the Application to the Commission.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes as follows:

CONCLUSIONS

1. Based upon customer interest in this proceeding, the Commission concludes that significant interest in the instant docket has been exhibited by customers who could be affected by the pending rate case Application.

2. The Commission concludes that a night hearing held in Dorchester County, South Carolina would allow interested customers to appear before the Commission to present evidence concerning the pending rate case Application.

3. The Commission concludes that a night hearing in Dorchester County, South Carolina would serve the public interest as such a night hearing would provide the customers affected by the rate Application a convenient forum in terms of location and time to appear before the Commission to present evidence related to the pending rate case Application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. A night hearing in the pending rate case Application filed by Carolina Water Service, Inc. shall be held in Dorchester County, South Carolina.

2. The Commission Staff is directed to find a suitable location and date for the night hearing and shall provide notice of the night hearing to the parties in this docket and to the customers affected by the Application.

3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)